

PRESS RELEASE

The Cleveland Museum of Art

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LECTURES AND GALLERY TALKS ON SURREALISM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EXHIBITION
THE SPIRIT OF SURREALISM OCTOBER 3 THROUGH NOVEMBER 25, 1979

Julien Levy and John Bernard Myers, art dealers and authors; Edward B. Henning, Chief Curator of Modern Art at The Cleveland Museum of Art; and J. H. Matthews, editor of Symposium, will deliver lectures on surrealism, and Ellen Breitman, instructor at The Cleveland Museum of Art, will present a series of six lectures examining The Realm of Surrealism. These lectures along with gallery talks are offered by The Cleveland Museum of Art in support of the special exhibition The Spirit of Surrealism organized by Edward B. Henning.

Surrealism was introduced to the United States in the Julien Levy Gallery. As a young dealer only a few years out of Harvard College, Levy gave Ernst, Dali, Magritte, and Giacometti their first American showings. A close associate of the pioneer surrealists and of several important later members of the movement, he brings to the opening night of The Spirit of Surrealism a rare perspective. He will show a short film and slides with his lecture, "Surrealism Is. . .," Tuesday, October 2 at 6:30 pm. This lecture is open only to Museum members and their guests.

The Spirit of Surrealism is the major exhibition to originate within the Museum in 1979. Edward B. Henning, who organized it and wrote the catalog, will speak on surrealism's influence on abstract expressionist painting. The lecture "Surrealism and Abstract Expressionism," Wednesday, October 17 at 8:30 pm is free and open to the public.

2-lectures and gallery talks

Born in Swansea, Wales, and a graduate of the University of Wales, J. H. Matthews has taught in British and American universities since 1955. Author of many books (thirteen on surrealism) and editor of Symposium, a quarterly journal in modern foreign literature, Dr. Matthews will speak on art in the context of surrealist ideas, in the lecture, "Painting in Surrealism," Sunday, November 11 at 3:30 pm. This lecture is free and open to the public.

For many years a dealer in modern American painting and sculpture, John Bernard Myers has edited books of poetry and graphics and has written for numerous art periodicals. Associated with The Artists' Theatre from 1954 to 1970, he produced thirty-six avant-garde plays by poets, with décors and music by contemporary painters and composers. Mr. Myers, who has lectured at many colleges and museums, will discuss the political and moral preoccupations of surrealism and the effect on American artists of the shift of surrealism's center from Paris to New York in the lecture, "The Impact of Surrealism," Wednesday, November 14 at 8:30 pm. This lecture is free and open to the public.

A series of six lectures presented by Ellen Breitman will examine literary, philosophical, and artistic aspects of The Realm of Surrealism. The first lecture in the series will be given by Michael Lawrence, staff member of the Art History and Education Department at the Museum, who organized the educational exhibition, Surrealism in Perspective. The lectures will be given on successive Wednesdays at 2:00 pm beginning October 10 and are free and open to the public.

October 10 The Literary and Artistic Background of Surrealism.
Michael Lawrence.

October 17 Philosophy, Politics, and the Dada Rebellion

October 24 Surrealism and the Visual Arts, Part I--Fantasy,
Symbolism, and Dream Imagery

October 31 Surrealism and the Visual Arts, Part II--Automatism
and the World Within

November 7 Surrealism and the New York School

3-lectures and gallery talks

November 14 The Surrealist Spirit Today

Gallery talks will be given in the exhibition The Spirit of Surrealism, daily October 3 through 9 by Ellen Breitman and on November 14 and 18 by Gerald Karlovec, an instructor at the Museum. Michael Lawrence will present gallery talks in the exhibition, Surrealism in Perspective, on October 24 and 28. All gallery talks begin at 1:30 pm and are free and open to the public.

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For additional information, please contact the Public Relations Office, The Cleveland and Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.